United Nations

Progress report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development

General Assembly
Official Records • Forty-ninth Session
Supplement No. 45 (A/49/45)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided, by resolution 49/126 of 19 December 1994, that an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Assembly be established in early 1995 under the chairmanship of its President to elaborate further an agenda for development and to report on the progress of its work before the conclusion of its forty-ninth session.

2. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group held three sessions. The first session was held from 21 to 24 February 1995, the second from 8 to 19 May 1995 and the third from 28 August to 8 September 1995.

3. The President of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire), served as Chairman of the Working Group.

4. At its first meeting, on 21 February 1995, Mr. René Valéry Mongbé (Benin) and Mr. Peter Osvald (Sweden) were designated Vice-Chairmen of the Working Group.

II. MODALITIES

5. At its first session, the Working Group had a preliminary exchange of views on a tentative outline for an agenda for development and requested the Secretariat to provide, before its next session, a compendium containing the goals, targets and commitments, as well as an assessment as to their status of implementation, of major United Nations conferences, agreements and meetings that had been held over the last five years.

6. At its second session, the Working Group had before it the Vice-Chairmen's proposed outline and the compendium as well as written contributions from a number of groups and States. Based on the proposed outline, the Working Group agreed that the agenda for development should consist of the following three chapters: (a) setting and objectives; (b) policy framework, including means of implementation; and (c) institutional issues and follow-up. On the basis of this outline, the Working Group had an exchange of views on the first two chapters.

7. Following these discussions, the Working Group entrusted its two Vice-Chairmen to provide for its third session a synthesis text that would take into account the views expressed during its second session as well as all written contributions. To this end, the Working Group invited all interested groups and/or States to make such contributions available at an early date on all three chapters. In addition, the Working Group requested the Secretariat to provide a compilation of all written contributions for its third session.

8. At its third session, the Working Group had before it the Vice-Chairmen's synthesis text and the compilation. The Working Group agreed that the Vice-Chairmen's synthesis text, even though it contained only the first two chapters of the agenda for development, should serve as a basis for negotiations. The Working Group reviewed the synthesis text and held an exchange of views on the third chapter of the agenda for development. At the end of the session, the Group entrusted the two Vice-Chairmen with providing a revised synthesis text, including chapter III, based on the discussions held during the third session.

9. Considerable progress was made by the Working Group. However, the Group could not complete its work in view of time constraints.

10. The Working Group, at its final meeting, on 8 September, concluded its work for the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly and decided to recommend that work on the agenda item should continue during the fiftieth session of the Assembly, building on the work done in the course of the forty-ninth session.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

11. At the final meeting, on 8 September, the Working Group decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly, having considered the progress report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/126 of 19 December 1994:
>
> "(a) Takes note of the progress report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group;
>
> "(b) Decides that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group should continue its work at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, taking into account the progress achieved during the forty-ninth session of the Assembly, with a view to finalizing an agenda for development, and report thereon during the fiftieth session of the Assembly."